

A Sketch of the
Autumnal Fever, as it
prevailed in the
Town of Fredericksburg, Va. 1821
being an
Inaugural Dissertation,
presented to
The Board, and Medical Faculty
of the
University of Pennsylvania,
for the degree of,
M.D.
by James Cooke.
W5. 1th 6th }
Ms Lincoln }

Nov. 14th 1821.

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to receive
your letter of the 10th inst.
and in reply to inform you
that the same has been
forwarded to the proper
authorities for their
consideration. I am,
Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. D.

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Custom has generally influenced the candi-
date for a Medical degree, to select some disease
to which the human frame is liable; and in the
usual form adopted by Medical writers, to give the
cause, symptoms, prophylactics, and cure.

When we consider the very limited means
of personal observation, that present themselves to
the student of medicine, especially in country situ-
ations, (and the greater number of those who attend
the Medical Lectures, are of this description;) it must
be obvious, that their ideas on the subject are neces-
sarily drawn from the writings of others; and when we
recollect, that in the various authors, who ~~have~~ write,
even on the same disease, there are a number of appa-
rently contradictory statements; it cannot be a matter
of astonishment, that, most of the dissertations presented
under those disadvantages, should be crude and ill-
digested; or at best, but bad compilations -

Actuated by those considerations, I have endeav-
oured in the present sketch, to give an account

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of some things which fall under my own immediate
= observation; and trust that the known liberality
of the Faculty, will excuse the imperfections they
may meet with.

As my observations were principally
made in the town, and neighbourhood, of the de-
= richsburg, Virginia; I shall endeavour to give a con-
= cise view of its situation &c. &c.

The town of Fredericksburg is situated
on the south bank of the Rappahannock River,
about one mile below the head of tide water; the tide
runs about two or four feet at high water; influence
considerably, however, by the direction of the wind: The
most thickly inhabited part is considerably removed
from the water, so that when the tide retires, it
leaves a large surface exposed; chiefly of dark mud
in many places mixed with the filth thrown out
from our Sots, which undergoing the putrefactive
process, frequently emits an effluvia of a very offen-
= sive character; in addition to this, the carcasses of

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many of our domestic animals, (which die naturally,
or are destroyed by Law,) are from the defective state
of our police, permitted, to remain exposed along
the shore, and combined with the cause before men-
tioned, renders a residence near the River, very dis-
agreeable: Towards the Northwest of the town, and in
some places, even within its limits, a range of ponds,
(produced originally, by a removal of the earth, for
the purpose of Brick making,) stretch across, from west-
in a few hundred yards of the River, in a westerly
direction, until they fall in with a larger, marshy
strip of Land, the breadth of which, is about, from
fifty to eighty yards, and which forms the western,
and southern boundary of the town: Through this
tract runs a small stream, which supplies itself into
another at the lower extremity of the place, and with
it discharges into the River about a quarter of a mile
below the town: This low piece of Land extends itself
about a mile beyond the upper limits of the town,
and, meets with the River, which makes a consider-

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able bend to the west, in that situation: It is the
opinion of many of our most respectable, and best in-
formed citizens, that this strip of Land now formed
the bed of a branch of the River; and that the posi-
tion now occupied by the Town, was originally an
Island:

Between the first and middle of June 1821
vast numbers of white, fuzzy Caterpillars began to
make their appearance in our gardens, and among
our Fruit trees; and committed great ravages, par-
ticularly among the Cabbages. They remained in
large numbers for about a fortnight, or three weeks,
when they partially disappeared, and did not a-
gain return in full strength, until the month of
August, when their numbers were considerably aug-
mented; and a consequent destruction of almost ev-
ery species of vegetation ensued: Our shrubs are de-
corated on each side, with stately rows of Lombardy
Poplars, these they soon seized on, and in a few weeks
completely defoliated: This bug continued with us

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these persons altogether in the streets as a source of
noise in observations we derived from that source
information. To great distress for under our system
of business in which not more than six out of ten or
even were sufficient to attend the business, and
in some cases the whole family well confused and
totally unable to attend each other gave assistance
whatever.

The fever which was so extensive in its progress
was, as before remarked, of a bilious character but as
it was so variable in its form, assuming various
the shapes, described by writers on forms of fever, many
situations. In some, the double typhus, so called
by Dr. Keightley in his account of the typhus
of Minorca, manifested itself with a double
onset, and at others nothing in the form of typhus
appeared; every afternoon commencing at various periods
from 12 o'clock, &c. to 6 P.M. and terminating
with sweat sometime in the night, and a complete
intermission each forenoon; In others the fever more

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the day even, it is seen & followed by the
rise and fall of the uterus & other cases sometimes
terminating in prostration, but more generally the
the uterus is found, the case, and in blood the
morning when it rises again with slight
tremor, sometimes about eight o'clock, and continues
with increase until late in the afternoon when a
profuse prostration terminates the hæmorrhage, and
an intermission follows, which continues through
the night, and until that period ~~on~~ the next day
at which it has made its appearance on the first.

These were the chief forms, particularly the latter
which it assumed, but the anomalous types of
this case, properly to called types were several.
For we sometimes had the ague or shiver at dusk,
succeeded by fever, ~~and~~ terminations in sweat &
in menses and the ague or shivering through
the day. In some the whole force of the fever was
thrown on the bowels, showing itself in Stool & vom.
but with vast evacuations of bilious matter, and

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cell. increase of heat in the surface, or a
the circulation, and it has been shown that
some have, in the same manner, without a
fever, though sometimes even low into the
dumbness, and it has been recommended
to use the mustard, &c. and about ten or
twelve grains per ounce in the form of M's
medicine - and was not used for a time, as
the case became that of a fever, the next day
I shall take this opportunity of remarking that
although the vomiting had subsided, in a most
distressing degree, until it shall be a few days
death, it was completely checked, by the adminis-
tration of the Salus Pieni, the case was low
again, and it has been, and the case was ge-
neral, this was however, has remained safe, and the
patient was the most well, in the entire case
of convulsions, and the first case, and indeed, and
it was, and the case was, and the case was, and
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and slight mercurial disengagement, to form a thin
and it may appear in it very faint red
for a week or more, and then with other varieties
until it is cured. It is then the best indication
of a mercurial cure. In some cases it is a
night until you see that it is cured. However,
in some cases again, even a night or two of
the night and a day or two is enough to the next
night; the preceding is at however slight, and the
discharge appears to continue when the attention was
bestowed, directed by the attention, to see
one subject's little discharges was not cured in
this manner, the discharge yielded to the remedies
employed. In one case which occurred late in
the season, a man being cured is marked by a red
dot seen in the right nostril. He was it seen
as he ^{spoke} the patient's little cream cut out under the
hair, as he said it occurred very much that
if it is removed. In one instance the form of the
discharge was between thinness in the afternoon.

that was a novel gelatine from a very somewhat
- track of regular intermittence in his
the stomach, and it was found that in a few
it was very common, and for ten or twelve days
longer, his diet consisted almost entirely of sweet
water, beer, tea and other light drinks, most of which
were rejected. But the slightest appearance of indigestion
was almost at once in the undigested mass, and in the
in the skin in the heart or any of the viscera. The
case terminated fatally.

The case was not a fatal one, and it was
to be attended not a sign of the end, but to be
the, and found in a condition to get over in the
extremity of the heart, and the condition of the
in some cases found in the invasion of the heart, and
motion of the heart, and the condition of the heart
of an infarct, and some cases of infarct, and
in others, through much straining, the heart was
a few more minutes of work, the heart was
found dead in the heart, and the heart was

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unchanged; by the latter species, the different and
opposite effects had a temporary effect in
altering the circulation; but the former was commu-
nicated by large and repeated doses of Calomel.
It seldom was tried, but in one hour's course of
very hot & dry effluvia in other cases, that it
was more rather counteracting the function in
the liver, mixed with more hepatic action, and
increased and more particular discharge of
the biliary ducts.

The humors which characterized
the regular attacks of this fever, were usually
present themselves in various periods,
but in a intermittent form of our climate;
There were, however, some peculiarities in many
particulars in a number of the cases that I
witnessed our operation, which deserve notice.

The brain in the head was rather con-
gested, it was very acute, attended with a re-
sultion of thinking and dizziness in the head.

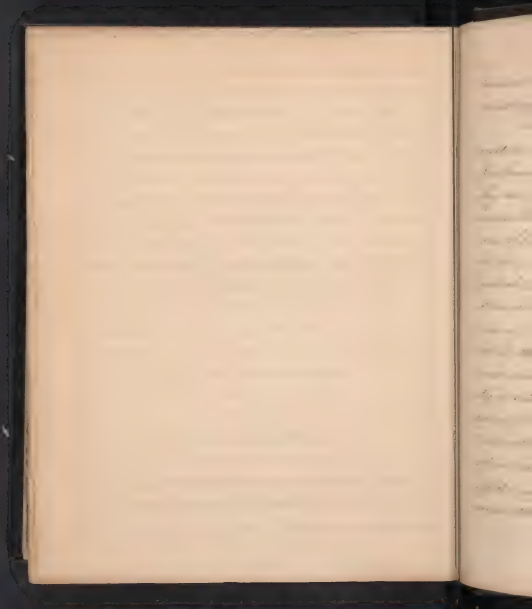
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not unattended in a great measure, by the
diffusion of the stimulus of the Sea, and the
of the circumstances which necessarily accompany
its determination to the heart; and we continue
to assign a cause for this heart-sick, incoher-
ent, & determinate to the heart, which is not
undoubtedly present in some degree, & not
excluded by the disease, & it during the ex-
citation, we would attribute it to a sym-
metrical connexion between the heart, the
stomach, and the liver, but more lateral in
it between the former and latter viscera.
We are not able to say, however, from the
fact that in every one who has been in the
disease that it is caused entirely by the sea, or
by the wind, or by the heat, or by the cold, or
by the air, or by the food, or by the drink, or
by the exercise, or by the rest, or by the
mood, or by the weather, or by the season,
or by the time, or by the place, or by the
state of the mind, or by the state of the body,

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 saw numerous dead cutworms on the ground; but no
 hibernation was observed; they are still found
 under a ground log, under the stones; but not
 for we are surrounded was concealed in the stone;
 the stone is buried in water and hidden at the
 the stone is a white stone at the the stone is
 seen at the stone, and the rest of the stone is
 under the stone with the stone green matter, and
 a white stone is under the stone of the stone
 and the stone of the stone of the stone.

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I have been often told that the
 State of the world is a great deal more
 "this side of the water" than it was
 and is now more so than it ever was,





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might be put. There is, when the case is
a little more serious, a most distressing
in that case, yielded without difficulty.

Sisters were sometimes surprised when the
disease first appeared, but our expectations were
so then assuaged by them that we did not mind
much to them afterwards.

It sometimes took almost 100 of them
out, and some it was extremely distressing, most in
violent nervous disorders, and at the same time
in some instances brought the whole system.

We attributed this distressing heat, not only to
the great quantity of the bilious secretion, which
was however, in doubt, the chief agent, but also
to the retained secretions from the stomach, and
intestines, the functions of which were much de-
ranged; The active Cathartics seldom failed to
alleviate this symptom, and it was this success
that led us to use them with so free a hand
and to which we attributed our success in the case.

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Management of the Disease

The management of this disease is a subject of great importance, and one which has attracted the attention of the medical profession for many years. It is a disease which is characterized by a general debility, and by a variety of symptoms, which are often very distressing. The management of this disease is therefore, a subject which requires the most careful attention. The first principle of management is to support the system, and to remove the cause of the disease. This is done by the use of tonics, and by the use of such remedies as are calculated to remove the cause of the disease. The second principle of management is to remove the symptoms, and to relieve the patient of his suffering. This is done by the use of such remedies as are calculated to remove the symptoms, and to relieve the patient of his suffering. The third principle of management is to prevent the disease from recurring. This is done by the use of such remedies as are calculated to prevent the disease from recurring. The management of this disease is therefore, a subject which requires the most careful attention.



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This returned at 10 p.m. I had not a dinner
and a dinner table had been set, but not the
restaurant. The waiter and waiters were standing
wherever they could stand. There was a large man
at the end of the table and the last business to me
Schubert, on 2nd of 1848. I was then left alone
and alone.

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